

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A suspension system having an axle, at least a portion of which is made of
5 a composite material. In a described embodiment, a suspension system includes
an axle assembly which has a composite axle portion. Metal spindles are
attached at each end of the axle for mounting wheels thereto. Two beams may be
attached directly to the composite axle portion, to a sleeve overlying the
composite axle portion, or to an axle seat attached to the sleeve or directly to the
10 composite axle portion.